



# NEWS RELEASE



## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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### WASHINGTON'S 2005 SWEET CHERRY PRODUCTION LOWER

OLYMPIA, Wash., June 10, 2005--Production of sweet cherries in California, Oregon and Washington is forecast at 200,000 tons, down 20 percent from 2004 and 11 percent below 2003. Washington's 2005 production is forecast at 120,000 tons, down 10 percent from last year. Washington's cherry crop experienced poor weather during bloom that hindered bee activity and pollination. Frost during April was a problem for many producers. Fruit set is reported to be lighter than last year as many growers are reporting smaller fruit clusters that could indicate fruit sizing will be larger. The California crop, at 45,000 tons, is down 38 percent from 2004. A series of heavy, late season storms caused problems for this year's cherry crop. The rains hit at the peak harvesting time for cherries in the southern San Joaquin Valley and the excess moisture caused some splitting and cracking. Sweet cherry production in Oregon is forecasted to be 35,000 tons, down 19 percent from last year's crop. Weather during bloom was unfavorable and set was lighter than last year. Early variety harvest should begin in about one week.

Production of Bartlett pears in California, Oregon and Washington is forecast at 437,000 tons, down 5 percent from last year and 4 percent below 2003. Washington's Bartlett crop is forecast at 175,000 tons, down 2 percent from 2004 and 5 percent below two years ago. Spring started with temperatures from 10 degrees above normal to 10 degrees below normal. Some scattered damage was reported due to freezing temperatures and hail. Some areas of the state reported lighter fruit set due to frost and poor weather conditions during pollination in April. In Oregon, growers expect to harvest 62,000 tons, unchanged from last year but 15 percent above 2003. The first bloom of Bartlett's in the mid-Columbia area during February and March was early this year due to unseasonably warm temperatures. Pollination during bloom was not ideal, although growers are currently hand thinning their trees. The California crop, at 200,000 tons, is down 10 percent from last season and 8 percent below two years ago. The Bartlett crop is down this season due to untimely rains during the growing season. The late season rains have caused some fruit to be unmarketable.

## FRUIT PRODUCTION, JUNE 1, 2005

Crop & Year	Total Production		
	2003	2004	Indicated 2005
<b>SWEET CHERRIES 1/:</b>	<b>Tons</b>		
California	65,600	73,000	45,000
Oregon	41,000	43,000	35,000
<b>Washington</b>	<b>118,000</b>	<b>133,000</b>	120,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>224,600</b>	<b>249,000</b>	200,000
<b>BARTLETT PEARS:</b>			
California	217,000	221,000	200,000
Oregon	54,000	62,000	62,000
<b>Washington</b>	<b>185,000</b>	<b>178,000</b>	175,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>456,000</b>	<b>461,000</b>	437,000
<b>APRICOTS:</b>			
California	92,500	94,000	85,000
<b>PRUNES (Dried):</b>			
California	181,000	49,000	105,000
<b>PEACHES:</b>	<b>Tons</b>		
California:			
All	949,000	949,000	920,000
Clingstone 2/	536,000	539,000	510,000
Freestone	413,000	410,000	410,000
Georgia	55,000	52,500	45,000
South Carolina	50,000	70,000	80,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,054,000</b>	<b>1,071,500</b>	1,045,000

1/ The first production forecast for sweet cherries in ID, MI, MT, NY, and UT and tart cherries in MI, NY, OR, PA, UT, WA, and WI will be published in the "Cherry Production" release on June 23, 2005.

2/ CA Clingstone is over-the-scale tonnage and includes culls and cannery diversions.

To access the entire release, including the complete narrative and tables point to  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa/press/cherpear.pdf>

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